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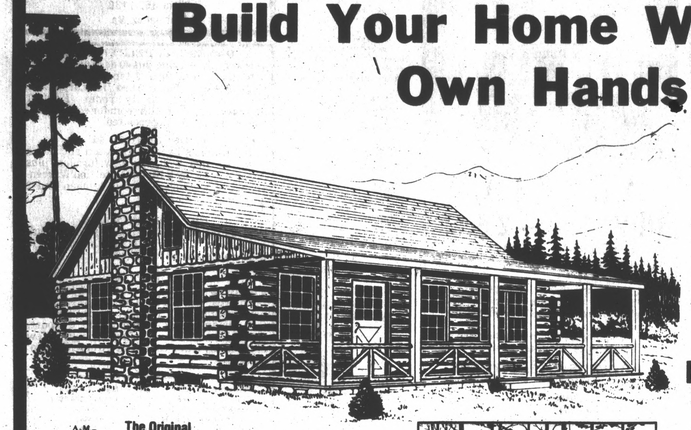

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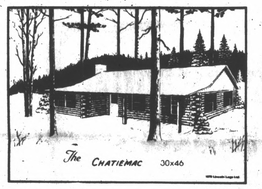

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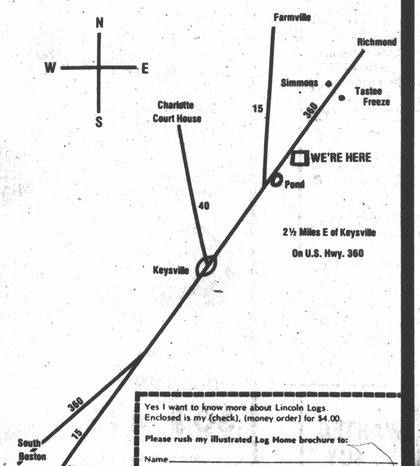

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

TWO SECTIONS - 30 PAGES

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Cablevision franchise

Arco gets second chance

By BILL SHERROD

Arco, Inc., got a second chance in Appomattox Monday night, as the Mayor and Council voted unanimously to allow the Pennsylvania-based company to retain the Appomattox cablevision franchise at least until February.

The Mayor and Council had called a public hearing to debate the Council's intention to cancel the Arco cablevision franchise. The decision to hold a hearing on cancelling the franchise was made at last month's Council meeting, following continued complaints regarding cablevision service and lapses of communication between Arco and the cablevision subscribers in Appomattox.

The specific reason for calling the public hearing was Arco's "failure to comply with the terms of the Appomattox cablevision franchise" as written in the original franchise agreement of February, 1979.

Stan Deimler, one of Arco's owners, said that the points of contention in the franchise-agreement question have been cleared up. He noted that internal problems at Arco had prevented him from spending time in Appomattox to work on technical problems such as poor signal reception. Last week, however, he raised the reception tower, and consequently the cable signals in Appomattox have improved.

An additional complaint aired at the public hearing concerns the portion of the franchise agreement dealing with satellite and paid-television channels.

Deimler noted that he is currently planning to replace channels 2 and 9 on the cable, both educational stations, with channel 17 out of Atlanta, Ga., and the Christian Broadcasting Network station out of Norfolk, Va. He said he hopes to have this done by the first of next year.

He added that he is planning to install equipment that will enable cablevision subscribers in Appomattox to receive Showtime, a paid-television channel which shows live sporting events and movies.

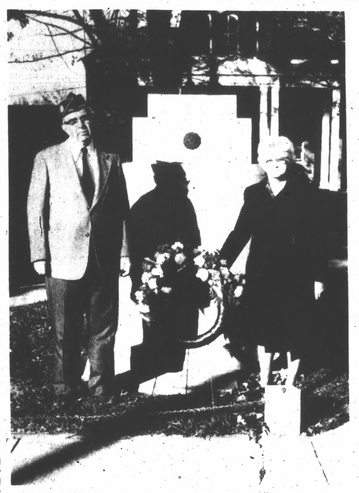
"Part of your problem has been that people in Appomattox feel like they've been paying for nothing," Councilman Dick Bass told Deimler. "When we awarded the franchise, we were under the impression that we were going to get (a movie station such as Home Box office or Showtime) and a sports channel. We feel like you came in here and started installation, then quit." He added that many cable subscribers have stopped paying their bills because of the poor reception and service provided by Arco.

Deimler agreed that the cable company had "gotten off to a fast start," then fallen "flat on our face." He cited internal problems and a federal project which he was committed to complete as reasons he had not been able to devote the proper amount of time to the Appomattox cable.

Irving Johnson, a citizen who spoke at the hearing, said as a subscriber he had been unhappy with the signal reception provided by the cable. "That's improved. Now we're concerned with the future of the cable," Johnson said in reference to the prospects of getting additional channels such as the Showtime station and a sports or news station. He pointed out the fact that, other than the three networks and public broadcasting sations, there is currently little variety on the Appomatox cable.

Deimler again said that he would have the satellite signal receiver installed by the first of next year, and that he would also have the paid-television equipment installed as soon as possible. He also pledged better service for the people who also subscribe to the cable.

Children's Thanksgiving Coloring Contest See Page 9



IVEY HOLLAND, COMMANDER of American Legion Post 104 and Mrs. Ivey Holland, president of Unit 104, place wreath at the base of Freedom Flame monument in commemoration of Veterans Day Tuesday. The day is set aside by Congress honoring men and women serving in the armed forces.

Students get to go hunting

Public school students in Appomattox County will have the opportunity to go hunting on the first day of deer season this year, as Monday has been designated an inservice day for county teachers.

Monday's designation is part of an ongoing effort to improve annual student attendance in public schools. The plan was formulated earlier this year by the school board. Since the first day of hunting season has traditionally been one of poor school attendance, the board members decided to use that date as one of the teachers' inservice days.

Teachers will be involved in inservice activities from 10 a.m. until noon Monday, according to Lloyd Walton, superintendent of schools in the county. The inservice activities will be conducted according to subjects taught by the individual teachers, on a countywide basis.

From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., the teachers will be in their schools to meet with parents.

Walton said Monday that parents having specific plans, questions or ideas to discuss with teachers should call their child's school and set up an appointment with the teacher, no later than this Friday afternoon.

"Parents are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to visit the different schools and meet with their children's teachers," Walton said.

Drug offenders

Arrests cause alarm

The arrest of two subjects for selling drugs at Appomattox County High School Oct. 20 was called "a matter of grave concern" at the Appomattox County School Board meeting Monday evening.

"It is a matter of grave concern to me, the school personnel, and the board members," said Lloyd Walton, superintendent of the Appomattox County School System, "and we are cooperating fully with the local law enforcement officials in attempting to apprehend and punish individuals."

School officials declined further comment other than the fact the incident is under intense investigation.

An attendance report for the school systems in the county ending Oct. 1 showed over all attendance up by one percent for the month of Oct.

"I want to encourage students to attend school regularly, and I hope all parents will cooperate by encouraging students in regular attendance at all times, said Lloyd Walton, expressing satisfaction with the October report.

Ag-extension interest increased in '20s

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles dealing with the growth of agricultural extension work in Appomattox County.

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

In 1910 two events took place that had a tremendous impact on agriculture and education in Appomattox County. The first was the appointing of Major J. W. Flood as first county agent for Appomattox County. The second was the opening of the Appomattox Agricultural High School for the 10th district.

Several counties attempted to secure the high school but Congressman Flood and several local people worked to have it located here in Appomattox. Mr. L. Crawley, a Virginian who had experience with agricultural high schools in Georgia was employed as principal.

With the appointment of a county agent and the new school with a focus on education in the field of agriculture, farmers in the Appomattox area took a new look at their farming methods and began thinking, "maybe there is a better way".

In 1912 the late B. G. Anderson was appointed county agent for Appomattox County. He told the farmers about crop rotations, he explained that they needed to use fertilizer and how much. He developed interest among local farmers in purebred livestock and encouraged the production of quality tobacco.

In talking with some of the older farmers of this county it was brought out that Mr. Anderson did some of his traveling around the county on a motorcycle. He especially used this method of transportation when traveling to Lynchburg. Like many of the county agents of that period, Anderson did a bit of everything, and was willing to share his knowledge on almost any subject from farming to veterinary science. Anderson resigned in 1918 to become the superintendent of the Appomattox Experiment Station.

W. H. Byrne was county agent from 1919 until 1925. He was, like Anderson, a hard worker. He went from farm to farm, mixing by hand, the fertilizer that would increase yields and thus boost the farm income.

In 1920, the production of tobacco in Appomattox reached an all-time high, 5,369 acres were grown.

Over the years crop yields have changed. In 1924, corn averaged 14 ½ bushels per acre; wheat, 10 bushels; oats, 11 bushels and tobacco 494 pounds. By 1963, however, corn averaged 55 bu per acre; wheat 25 bushels; oats 35 bushels; and tobacco 1250.

Horses were the principal source of farm power during these years. There were 2700 horses and mules in Appomattox County in 1920 according to records in the Appomattox County Extension Office.

According to written reports by County Agent Byrne, dated 1921, he assisted in organizing 2 community leagues, took 15 boys to Blacksburg to state club short courses, spent a great deal of time working up county fair exhibits, attended a farmers institute with eight farmers and was continually consulting with farmers on the road, in the office, at home, personally and by phone.

There is no doubt about it, the field of agriculture was a lot of attention in Appomattox at about this time and it was paying off.

In 1925 the late R. B. Hudgins was named county agent; he served in that capacity until 1955 when James Smith, our present extension agent came to the county.

During the thirty years Mr. Hudgins served as agent, many new services were made available and the socio-economic conditions of rural people were dramatically changed. Lespedeza was introduced as a new crop. A terracing association was formed which was the forerunner of the present day soil conservation service. Hybrid seed corn replaced open pollinated varieties. Rural electrification cooperatives were organized to serve farm homes.

Next week we'll continue to look at the progress of agriculture in the county of Appomattox.

In Appomattox

Education Week set

"Education in the 80's-Preparation for the Future" is the theme this year as educators in Appomattox County prepare to observe American Education Week, November 16-22, 1980.

Many activities have been planned by teachers and administrators at Appomattox County High School to emphasize the importance of education. Many teachers will be preparing special displays and exhibits in their classrooms as well as planning special activities for their students.

Miss Shelby Shelton, chorus director at the high school has planned a conert at the school for Saturday, November 15, at 7:30 p.m. Teachers will be working at the school on Monday, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Parents are invited to come by during the afternoon between 1 a.m. and 5 p.m. that day to have coffee and talk with individual teachers. Parents and interested community citizens are invited also to come by and have lunch in the school cafeteria on Wednesday, between 11:45 and 1:15 p.m.

Throughout the week, the school will provide coffee and refreshments for teachers and different clubs will be performing special activites. The school board office window will be decorated in observance of American Education Week and announcements will be made at the school and throughout the local media.

Educating the children of Appomattox County is a full-time job for parents and school personnel. The week of November 16-22, 1980, will be observed as American Education Week, but community support of the school system should be continuous to prepare the youth of Appomattox for the future.

THE YEAR WAS 1926; the occasion, a 4-H meeting at Hampden-Sydney College. Appomattox was well represented . . . can any of you readers identify those natives of our county? Remember the year was 1926!

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

There are times when you do not have to be told that cold weather is on the way. Nature provides signals. Last week-end most everyone I met proclaimed their pleasure over the fine weather. Twas a perfect week-end to take a trip. Many did. From the mountains to the shoreline, nary a fault. Those who stayed home raked leaves, visited friends and enjoyed a great Fall week-end. But as I write this on Monday morning, I see signals that 'twill be cooler. Had an overnight shower which was needed. Red sails in the sunset. Stout winds sashshaying the trees and leaves letting go. Orange leaves. Red leaves. Brown leaves. Pine needles in flight like little javelins. Pine cones dropping. Nature's signals. Crisp as a potato chip. Ah yes, there will be warm days yet, but Appomattox is beginning to look like Fall.

* * *

A reader phoned in with a promise to get me some Campaign '80 buttons to add to my collection. I had mentioned last week that had not seen any political buttons during the political season.

* * *

Maybe this week-end will be ideal for hog killing time. Do not have any and do not know how, but sausage would be nice for breakfast, along with fried apples and hominy.

* * *

Popular bachelor... Prince Charles will be 32 Friday.

* * *

A bit about football. ACHS had a creditable season and has a fine group of young players ready to shine season. Billy Johnson, ex-Buckingham star, had a fine year with U. of N.C. and did well in the Tarheel win over Clemson. This was not a good year for the pro Redskins, but not as bad as 1940 when they lost to the Chicago Bears 73 to 0. Comment: with so many games going on, it is hard to set a record, but one game last week-end had a score of 105 to 0.

* * *

I have a set of books about the who, what and when of scientific progress through the ages. Example, men sailed ships before they were sure of where they were going, where they were and how fast they were moving. Wood floats, so some wise fellow dropped a log of wood from the stern of his ship and assigned a sailor to hold on to a small rope that had been attached to the log. Tied knots in the rope about fifty feet apart and kept a record of how many knots slipped through his fingers per time unit as the ship moved. So 'tis that the record of a ship's progress is known as The Log and the speed is measured in Knots.

* * *

Goodness gracious. At the moment Virginia's highway death total is around 900, some sixty more than last year.....were I a football player I would want a helmet made out of a coconut shell..... Census figures are still coming in, and our largest cities are New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, in that order. I have never been to Chicago.....One of the many things I misjudged. Along about the time of Lindbergh's solo flight, I said that in a generation most every family would have its private airplane, same as its automobile. Maybe it is best that it did not work out thataway.

* * *

Along the route I drive my car to fetch the morning paper, two small children wave at me, a boy and a girl. They are waiting for their school bus. Well, it helps make my day! Thanks and that is another reason Appomattox is a great community. Thanks for reading and seeya around.

Final of season

Bollinger wins FC

Jim Bollinger of Appomattox won a six-way tiebreaker to claim victory in last week's Times-Virginian football contest, the final contest of the 1980 football season.

Bollinger and five other contestants missed accurately predicting the outcomes of three of the 23 games offered in the contest, and in predicting the scores of the tiebreaker games, VPI-Florida State and Appomattox-Buckingham, tallied a total 18-point spread to win the competition.

Steve Marshall of Appomattox ran a close second, missing only three games and totalling a 20-point spread in the tiebreaker competition. Bollinger will receive a check for $10 and Marshall a check for $5 for their efforts.

Ben Marshall, Alvin Booker, Johnny Cole and Jeff Martin were also in the running, each missing three predictions in the competition. Ben Marshall's tiebreaker point spread was 24 points, Booker's spread was 30 points, Cole's spread was 39 points, and Martin's spread was 40 points.

Bollinger came closer to winning the special contest prize than any other contest winner this season, predicting a score of 14-8 in the Appomattox-Buckingham tiebreaker game. The actual score was 17-7, Appomattox.

Four other competitors were close in the contest last week, missing accurately predicting the outcomes of four of the 23 contest games. They were Margaret Wilson, Ronnie Spiggle and Benny Beasley, all of Appomattox, and Frankie McCormick, of Gladstone.

Last week's contest concluded the competition for the 1980 season. Like the preceeding nine contests, last week's was hotly contested by the spirited football enthusiasts wielding crystal balls in and around Appomattox County.

The paper thanks the citizens and adertisers in and around Appomattox for making this year's version of the football contest another pleasant autumn diversion.

Hunting licenses on sale

The Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Appomattox County will be open on Saturday, November 15, 1980 from 9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon for the sale of hunting licenses.